

REACH OUT RAPID RIVER

Rapid River Public School's Newsletter

April 2009

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

As I look out my window I still see mounds of snow and patches of ice, but bare patches of brown grass and a robin I saw earlier perched in one of our memorial trees helps me realize that spring is not that far away - I hope. Spring is a time of new beginnings except in schools; for us it signals our final marking period, our final sports season (track, softball and golf), graduation; another school year to take its place in the history of Rapid River Public Schools.

Spring is a busy time of year for our school community as we plan for our usual end-of-the-year activities: prom, spring band concert, graduation, freshmen orientation, parent athletic meeting for fall sports, and make plans for the 2009-2010 school year.

Our renovation project will get closer to finally being completed during spring break where contractors can work undisturbed. When spring finally does arrive, our tennis courts will get a face lift and Mary Anderson and Lollie Eskofski will be busy working on the beautiful planter at the entrance to school and filling our new planters so we can enjoy beautiful flowers all spring, summer and through the fall.

All schools in Michigan continue to face some tough times - declining enrollment, less resources, and so on. We hope to know more about the stimulus package and how we can best use it to educate our kids. As we work on the master schedule

and the budget for the 2009-2010 school year, that is our number one priority - doing what's best for our students.

Getting through tough times is always made easier when we work together. That's what I love about being in education and especially as superintendent - I get to be with students every day. What I have been hearing from elementary to high school kids is the same - they understand what their families are going through and they are figuring out ways to help. The same is true for what is happening at school; kids and our volunteers are making things work because they know our resources are either stretched to the limit or nonexistent.

Please consider joining our great organizations or volunteering at school - and bring a friend - Library, Athletic Boosters (Fan Club), School Improvement, PTC, Band Boosters. We know it's not always easy to go to a meeting for the first time, but each of these organizations does great things for kids and as a parent or extended family member you are always welcome. Even if you are only able to volunteer an hour a week or volunteer at one event a year, we still would love to have you join us. You'll meet great people, do great things for kids, and you will enjoy being around the energy and excitement that kids naturally create. I guarantee you that when you walk out the door after spending time with our kids you will feel energized from their enthusiasm and from knowing that you made a difference in our kids' lives.

We look forward to seeing you at our athletic events and activities this spring. Look for our new web site this

spring. We hope you will enjoy the new format. Also, our new showcases in the auxiliary gym are starting to fill up thanks to Ralph and Karen Lundquist. The old trophies have been brought down and some are being repaired and cleaned for display.

Terri Mileski, Superintendent

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration for children who will be 5 by December 1, 2009 will be held on April 17, from 8:00 - 3:00. New Young 5's should also register. The screening process will take approximately one hour.

Parents need to bring their child, legal birth certificate, social security card, and shot record. To make an appointment call 474-6411, ext 507.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 30 – April 3 - NO SCHOOL
Spring Break

April 6 - PTC mtg., 6:30 p.m. in the library.

April 8 - Fan Club mtg., 5:30 p.m. in the elementary office.

April 10 – NO SCHOOL –
Good Friday

April 15 – Spring Band Concert,
7:30 p.m. in the H.S. gym.

April 20 - School Board mtg.,
6:00 p.m. in the library.

May 27 – Freshman Orientation mtg.,
6:30 p.m. in the library.

May 27 – Parent Athletic mtg.,
7:00 p.m. in the H.S. cafeteria.

SUPER ONE SLIPS

Please save your Super One slips for the Senior Class All Night Graduation Party. Slips can be dropped off in either office.

SCHOOL BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Regular Mtg., February 16, 2009

Superintendent Mileski updated board members on the following:

- the 2009/2010 budget proposal from the State which, at this point, includes a \$59 pupil reduction to the foundation allowance. Keep in mind this is the very beginning stage of the process and should be the worst case scenario.

- the 2009/2010 retirement rate is proposed to increase .4% to 16.94% and at-risk funding should remain the same.

- the MEA retirement incentive plan to get eligible teachers to retire will not have the support of the Governor.

- we will wait until after kindergarten registration to make a decision regarding keeping our current format for one more year or moving to all day every day for 2009/2010.

- there will be one or two more management training sessions for administrators on the SchoolCenter website software with training for other groups (i.e. Fan Club, PTC, staff, etc.) to follow.

- attended the Fan Club meeting last week where many topics were discussed including involvement of coaching staff, five year rotation for uniform purchases, the possibility of pay to participate and the building of a storage building.

- the renovation project is finally winding down.

- Tom O'Brien of Ensign Township will coordinate updating the identification numbers on our new exterior doors.

Key Club President Amber Pigott, with the assistance of Advisor Linda Froberg, explained the proposed itinerary for the upcoming Key Club Convention to Green Bay March 13-15, 2009 and requested permission to go on the trip.

There was discussion regarding the trip versus the other trips such as the senior class trip. Guidelines were reviewed along with the number of chaperones and a parent meeting outlining the trip.

The Board of Education held the second reading of NEOLA policy updates.

During audience communications board members thanked teacher Flo Kuehl for updating them on the teachers' thoughts regarding a possible trimester schedule to meet the demands of the Michigan Merit Core Curriculum.

Motion made and approved:

- to approve the Key Club Convention trip to Green Bay, Wisconsin March 13-15, 2009 subject to including a 4th chaperone and a mandatory parent meeting within the next ten days.

- to approve the NEOLA policy updates as presented.

Regular Mtg., March 16, 2009

Superintendent Mileski updated board members on the following:

- the Region I Superintendent's meeting where the stimulus package was discussed.

- the Delta Schoolcraft I.S.D. Superintendent's Roundtable meeting where the school calendar was discussed and an update was heard regarding the I.S.D. Board election.
- the renovation project is very near completion with work scheduled during spring break.

- there will be a number of fire, tornado, lockdown and complete evacuation drills held during the upcoming weeks.

- passed around copies of what the new school website will look like.

- Monica Verplank, from Spring Lake Schools, will conduct a teleconference regarding trimesters for our middle school and high school staff on April 21st.

- informed board members of teachers' request to extend the deadline to rescind intents to retire from March 31, 2009 to April 30, 2009.

President Wendy Holzenkamp appointed Debbie Pajnich to the 2009 Scholarship Selection Committee.

Motion made and approved:

- to extend the deadline for teachers to rescind intents to retire from March 31, 2009 to April 30, 2009.

- to approve the 2008/2009 General Fund, Food Service Fund, & Athletic Fund budget revisions as presented.

- to graciously accept the \$129 donation from Richard & Edie Spriks in memory of their daughter, Megan Marohnic, on her 29th birthday February 15, 2009.

- to enter into executive session to discuss negotiations.

STUDENT OF THE QUARTER

The School Improvement Team is announcing the "Student of the Quarter" for 9-12 graders. Each quarter, teachers from each department select a student to be their "Student of the Quarter". The teachers will be using the following criteria to make their selections: grades, attitude, participation, and improvement.

Here are the students selected for the 2nd quarter of the 2008-2009 school year: Miranda Kohli (Science), Whitney Thull (English), Jordan Dalgord (Fine Arts), Jordan Schwartz (Physical Education), Joanna Cunningham (Math), and Haley Gustafson (Social Studies). The teacher of the 2nd quarter is Ms. Mary Bastian. Congratulations to all!

REPORT CARDS

Report cards will be distributed to 6 thru 12 grade students on Thursday, April 9 during homeroom.

KINDERGARTEN VISITATION

Kindergarten visitation will be held on Friday, April 24th. New kindergarten students will be contacted as to times.

ATHLETIC EVENTS

High School Track

April

16	Marquette (Dome)	12:00
21	Rapid River	4:00
23	Rapid River	2:30
	Delta Co. Invite	

May

1	Stephenson	TBA
5	Mid Pen CUP	2:30
7	Rapid River Invite	2:30
14	Rapid River	2:30
	Regionals	
20	Mid Pen Frosh/Soph	2:30
22	N. Dickinson Skyline	2:00
26	Gladstone	6:30
30	UP Finals-Kingsford	TBA

Junior High Track

April

20	Rapid River	4:00
22	Bark River	4:00
27	Mid Pen	4:00
30	Rapid River	4:00

May

4	Mid Pen Invite	1:30
11	Rapid River CUP	1:30

Girls' Softball

April

10/11	Marquette	Away	TBA
17	Marquette	Home	4:00
20	Escanaba	Home	4:00
22	Sup. Central	Home	4:00
24	Manistique	Away	4:00
25	Escanaba	Away	TBA
28	Negaunee	Home	4:00
29	Munising	Home	4:00
30	Marquette	Away	4:00

May

4	Gladstone	Home	4:00
6	Manistique	Home	4:00
11	Escanaba	Away	4:00
13	Sup. Central	Away	4:00
15	Stephenson	Home	4:00
18	Munising	Away	4:00
19	Negaunee	Away	4:00

Golf

April

20	Bluff	1:00
29	Gladstone	*10:00

*a.m.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

The High School and Junior High Science Olympiad teams competed at Northern Michigan University on February 14th. The teams of 15 students each competed in 23 events. The high school team was 6th of the 12 teams that competed. The junior high team came in 4th of the 12 teams that competed.

High School Results: Astronomy - 1st Place - Noah Hagman and Max Hill; Write it Do it - 3rd Place - Kelsey Ignat and Max Hill; Forensics Lab - 2nd Place - Jordan Dalgord and Faith Scheeneman; Health Science - 2nd Place - Miranda Kohli and Faith Scheeneman; Technical Problem Solving - 3rd Place - Noah Hagman; Disease Detective - 2nd Place - Heidi Pfiester and Miranda Kohli; Experimental design - 3rd Place - Miranda Kohli and Kody Kerstner; Elevated Bridge - 3rd Place - Vinnie Hagman

Junior High Results:

Science Crime Busters - 3rd Place - Tyler McGuigan and John Johnson; Anatomy - 3rd Place - Taylor Hileman; Road Scholar - 1st Place - Hayden Hardwick and Daniel Boris; Physical Science Lab - 3rd Place - Robert Metter; Experimental Design - 1st Place - Ryan Sundstrom and Hayden Hardwick; Ecology - 3rd Place Taylor Hileman

ATHLETIC NEWS

There will be a parent mandatory athletic meeting May 27th at 7:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. This meeting is for all students who will be participating in any sport for the 2009-10 school year. This meeting will be to go over the Rapid River athletic handbook and the MHSAA handbook. In order to participate in athletics you need a current physical and must have attended the spring athletic meeting. At this time we do not have a date for spring physicals.

SENIOR PARENTS

Plans are underway for the All Night Graduation Party. Parents are encouraged to attend the planning meetings which are held at 6:00 p.m. in the high school library. Future meeting dates are: April 8th & 22nd, May 6th & 13th. Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan to join us.

ACADEMIC AWARDS

These outstanding scholars have earned an award in recognition of their academic accomplishments. The students have met the criteria below.

-3.7 or above Semester GPA for 3 consecutive semesters.

-3.3 or above Semester GPA for 5 consecutive semesters or 6 non-consecutive semesters.

The following students have met the above criteria and were awarded their academic letter: Joanna Cunningham, Cassidy Larsen, Peter Behnke, Jordan Dalgord, and Noah Hagman.

Way to go kids! We are proud of your accomplishments!

School Improvement Team

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Local scholarship packets will be distributed to seniors in Government class on Tuesday, April 7. Please make sure to read all application instructions/criteria and return to the office by Thursday, April 23rd at 3:00 p.m.

Seniors who have received any scholarships or awards from colleges or universities or the military, and would like to be recognized at the Senior Awards ceremony (May 18), please make sure the high school office has your information by May 15.

SENIORS

Please remember to hand in a wallet size, **vertical**, senior picture for the class composite as soon as you can to the high school office.

HEAD START WEEK

The week of April 27th is Head Start week. During this week we will be taking applications for the 2009/2010 school year. For more information or to set up an appointment please call: Escanaba 789-0997, Gladstone 428-4231, Rapid River 474-3538, or toll free 1-800-562-9131.

FAN CLUB NEWS

The Booster Bucks Raffle winners are as follows:

Feb. 25, 2009

\$100.00-Holly Nicholson, Rapid River

\$50.00-Lisa Hough, Rapid River

\$25.00-Moe Sanderson, Gladstone

\$25.00- Kristie Keenan, Rapid River

March 11, 2009

\$100.00-Jon Miller, Rapid River

\$50.00-Todd Wilken, Rapid River

\$25.00- Shelly Forslund, Rock

\$25.00- Brian Judson, Cornell

Track season is right around the corner and we will be looking for help in the concession stand, so please stop in to sign up and volunteer your time.

We are still planning on a sports banquet this spring, so if you would like to help or have any input, please let us know.

If you have any questions please contact, Jackie Augustine, Lori Shope, Loreen Harris, or Dodie Micheau!

The Fan Club will meet April 8th, 5:30 p.m. in the elementary office.

TRANSPORTATION

Parents please be aware that during spring break up some roads will become difficult if not impossible to negotiate with the buses. Please make allowances for these situations. It may or may not affect the timing on some or all of the bus runs. Thank you for your understanding.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

All drivers using the Rapid River Schools drive way and parking lots are asked to obey the posted speed limits, follow all signage for traffic flow, and please do **NOT** park on the grass. Let's keep our grounds as beautiful as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

DISTRICT SOLO & ENSEMBLE

The results of the District Solo & Ensemble are as follows:

Junior High Band - Division I -

Alto Saxophone Solo - Rikki

Stropich, Tenor Saxophone Solo -

Josie Miller; Division II - Flute

Duet - Paige Jensen & Heathar

Keenan, Clarinet Trio - Emily Lucier,

Neena Brockway & Kristy Kerstner,

Clarinet Solo - Alisha Hirn, Snare

Drum Solo - Andrea Starr

High School Band - Division I * -

Woodwind Trio - Haley Gustafson,

Ashley Hough, & Audrey Larsen;

Division II - Clarinet Solo - Brandi

Norman, Clarinet Duet - Brandi

Norman & Kyra Wallace, Tenor

Saxophone Solo - Samantha Peterson

Trumpet Solo - Taylor Hileman,

Division III - Flute Solo - Jordan

Dalgord

*qualified for State Solo & Ensemble Festival, March 28

SENIOR PARENTS

If anyone wishes to put a congratulatory ad in the yearbook along with a picture of your choice, please call 474-3572. Cost is only \$5. Also, senior pictures must be *VERTICAL* and turned in *before* graduation. Thank You!

PROM 2009

The 2009 Prom will be Saturday, April 18, dinner 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., dancing 8:00 - 11:00 p.m. at the Stonington Hall. Cost is \$40.00 per couple and \$25.00 single. Tickets can be purchased in the high school office.

ELEMENTARY PARENTS

If a student is deviating from his/her scheduled bus drop off site, a parent must send a written note with your child to school signed and dated. Also, if a parent/guardian is picking up a child the school needs prior notification or they will be sent home on the bus.

INDIAN EDUCATION

CULTURE: March found our program making ankle bells with the 2nd grade class and then dancing to a children's powwow song. We also did an Anishnabeg living (then and now) presentation with the 4th grade class. Cultural adviser Mrs. Cutter brought in many of her personal artifacts to share with the class.

TUTORING: There's still time for students to get tutorial help if he/she is struggling in any area. For K-5 tutoring, please call the Indian Ed office at 474-3572 or talk to your child's teacher. Students in grades 6-12 only need to "drop in" on days Mr. Pilon is here. We are here to serve!

If anyone with Native American ancestry wishes to be in our program but isn't, please get a 506 form from either office. There is no cost to be in Indian Education, but we need signed 506 forms to fund the program.

YEARBOOK

The deadline for ordering a 2009 yearbook has been extended to June 30th. You can make non-refundable payments of \$10 per month until your book is paid in full. Order forms are available in the high school office, the Indian Ed/Yearbook office, and also most classrooms.

There are still some 2008 yearbooks available for \$40. If interested, please call either the yearbook office (474-3572) or the high school office (474-6411).